

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ESCAP
SUBJECT: ESCAP PLENARY SESSION: SUMMARY OF FIRST PART

1. SUMMARY. ESCAP'S THIRTY-THIRD SESSION HAS THUS FAR BEEN BUSINESS-LIKE AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL EXCEPT FOR LAOTIAN CHARGES THAT THAILAND HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONDUCTING SABATOGUE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE LPDR AND THE USUAL CHINESE DENUNCIATIONS OF QUOTE THE TWO SUPERPOWERS UNQUOTE. THE LAOTIAN DELEGATION ALSO STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS WAITING FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE PROMISES MADE TO IT BY THE US PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION WHICH RECENTLY VISITED VIENTIANE. THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AS A GROUP ARE SOMEWHAT LOWER RANKING THAN LAST YEAR AND SOME OF THE DELEGATIONS APPEAR MORE TECHNICALLY ORIENTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY TWO RESOLUTIONS HAVE SURFACED TO DATE - ONE ON AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ONE ON COARSE GRAINS, PULSES, ROOTS AND TUBERS. THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE RESOLUTION WHICH

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EMERGES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO US.

3. ALMOST ALL OF THE PLENARY MEETINGS FROM APRIL 20 THROUGH 23 HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO COUNTRY STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEM FOUR: POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION. MANY OF THE SPEAKERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESAPPOINTMENT THAT NO SIGNIFICANT RE-

STRUCTURING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER HAS YET TAKEN PLACE DESPITE ALL THE ATTENTION DEVOTED TO THAT SUBJECT, AND SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS FREQUENTLY MADE TO BOTH THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCTAD IV AND THE QUOTE FAILURE UNQUOTE OF THE RECENT COMMON FUND NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. NUMEROUS REFERENCES WERE ALSO MADE TO UNSPECIFIED INDICATIONS OF A THREATENING RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONIST TRADE POLICY ON THE PART OF CERTAIN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND A HOPE THAT THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL REJECT SUCH POLICIES. COMPLAINTS WERE VOICED THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GO FROM ONE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ANOTHER ALWAYS PROMISING THAT A REAL BREAKTHROUGH WILL OCCUR AT THE NEXT ONE, BUT THAT THESE MEETINGS ARE REALLY PART OF A CEASELESS QUOTE MERRY-GO-ROUND UNQUOTE THAT DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE. NEVERTHELESS THE CRITICISM OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAS BEEN OFFERED IN A TONE QUOTE MORE OF SORROW THAN ANGER UNQUOTE AND MOST SPEAKERS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE RATHER THAN TO SEEK QUOTE CONFRONTATION UNQUOTE. IT APPEARS VERY LIKELY THAT THE IMMINENCE OF THE CIEC MINISTERIAL IN PARIS HAS EXERTED A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON LDC DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT THAT MEETING WILL INVOLVE MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. THE DELEGATIONS ADDRESSING AGENDA ITEM FOUR HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN CALLING FOR THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BOTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ESCAP'S OWN ACTIVITIES. ONLY THE SOVIET DELEGATION TOOK MILD ISSUE WITH THIS THESIS, CONTENDING THAT THE VERY IMPORTANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE WHICH INDUSTRIALIZATION MUST PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODERN ECONOMY WAS BEING NEGLECTED IN THE STATEMENTS OF OTHER SPEAKERS. THE OTHER CATCH WORD WHICH HAS DOMINATED THE COUNTRY STATEMENTS HAS BEEN QUOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE UNQUOTE, WITH VIRTUALLY ALL SPEAKERS ADOPTING THE QUOTE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS UNQUOTE APPROACH AND INSISTING ON THE ESSENTIALITY OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE POOREST PEOPLE IN EACH COUNTRY. THE CONCEPTS OF ECONOMIC AND OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO RECEIVED UNIVERSAL ENDORSEMENT.

5. THE LAOTIAN DELEGATION SHARPLY CRITICIZED THAILAND OF THE AFTERNOON OF THE OPENING DAY AFTER OBSERVING THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE LAST YEAR AND THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT HAD BEEN MARKED BY THEIR JOINT DECLARATION OF LAST AUGUST. DURING THE LAST MONTH, CONTENDING THE LAOTIAN, THERE HAVE BEEN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MILITARY PROVOCATION ALONG THE BORDER AS THE THAI

GOVERNMENT HAS TRAINED LAOTIAN EMIGRES AND LAUNCHED THEM INTO SABOTAGE OPERATIONS AGAINST LAOS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT WILL NOW END ITS POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR THE LAOTIAN TRAITORS QUOTE WHO WILL NEVER RETURN TO POWER. UNQUOTE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON THE THAI DELEGATION CHARACTERIZED THESE ACCUSATIONS AS BASELESS AND DECLARED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION OF CONTINUING TO PURSE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH LAOS.

6. THE LAOTIAN DELEGATION ALSO STATED THAT HIS COUNTRY DESIRES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND THAT IT HAD THEREFORE WELCOMED, AS QUOTE A VERY PROMISING BEGINNING, UNQUOTE THE RECENT VISIT OF A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL MISSION. THE LPDR IS NOW WAITING,

HE SAID, FOR QUOTE CONCRETISATION UNQUOTE OF THE PROMISES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE AT THE TIME - PROMISES FOR QUOTE ENDING AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR HOSTILE ACTIVITIES TO THE LAO PEOPLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSIDE AS WELL AS OUTSIDE THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION IN LAOS. UNQUOTE.

7. THE STATEMENT OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION DIFFERED FRASTICALLY FROM THOSE OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, CONTAINING THE STANDARD ATTACKS ON QUOTE THE TWO SUPERPOWERS UNQUOTE FOR THEIR CONTINUED POLICIES OF QUOTE HEGEMONISM. UNQUOTE THE REFERENCE TO THE U.S. WAS BRIEF BUT MORE TIME WAS DEVOTED TO THE U.S.S.R., WHICH AS USUAL RETORTED AT THE END OF ITS OWN STATEMENT THAT CHINA IS ACTUALLY PURSUING GREAT POWER EXPANSIONIST OBJECTIVES IN THE ESCAP AREA.

8. THE STATEMENT OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HAS BEEN REPORTED IN EMBTEL 8826. WHITEHOUSE

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